

Discovery of VHE and HE emission from the blazar 1ES 0414+009 with H.E.S.S and Fermi-LAT

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The high energy peaked BL Lac (HBL) object 1ES 0414+009 ($z=0.287$) is a distant very high-energy (VHE, $E > 100$ GeV) blazars with well-determined redshift. This source was detected with the High Energy Stereoscopic System (H.E.S.S.) between October 2005 and September 2009. It was also detected with the Fermi Large Area Telescope (LAT) in 21 months of data. The combined high energy (HE) and VHE spectra, once corrected for γ - γ absorption on the extragalactic background light (EBL), indicate a Compton peak located above few TeV, among the highest in the BL Lac class.

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1. Introduction

The BL Lac object 1ES 0414+009 is located a redshift of $z = 0.287$ [1] and harbors a super-massive black hole of mass $\sim 2 \times 10^9 M_\odot$ [2]. The host galaxy is classified as elliptical, with luminosity -23.5 [3]. This source belongs to the class of high-frequency-peaked BL Lacs (HBL), objects with a synchrotron-emission peak located at UV/soft-X-ray frequencies.

Based on the VHE estimates taken from [4], H.E.S.S. started to observe 1ES 0414+009 in 2005 and continued until 2009, dedicating significant observing time to its detection, because its high redshift made this source an interesting candidate for EBL studies. Results of the H.E.S.S. measurements will be here reported, together with observations carried out in these 5 years by other instruments in different wavelengths. Indeed, the source is also detected in the HE (100 MeV – 100 GeV) range in the first 20 months of operation of the Large Area Telescope (LAT) on the *Fermi* γ -ray space telescope. X-ray and UV observations carried out by the *Swift* XRT and UVOT instruments and optical measurement from the ATOM telescope complete the broad-band spectral energy distribution (SED) of 1ES 0414+009. Properties of the SED and constraints on the EBL are also discussed in the following.

2. H.E.S.S. observations

H.E.S.S. has observed the HBL 1ES 0414+009 every year between 2005 and 2009, accumulating 73.7 hours of observations passing the data quality selection. This data set was analyzed using Model Analysis [5] with standard cuts. A significant excess of 225 events (7.8σ) from the direction of this source was found.

The fit of the excess map with a 2D-function indicates that the source is point-like and is located at $\alpha_{J2000}=4^h16^m52.96s \pm 15.3_{stat}^s, \delta_{J2000} = 1^\circ5'20.4'' \pm 15.1_{stat}^s$, consistent with the nominal position $\alpha_{J2000}=4^h16^m52.8^s, \delta_{J2000} = 1^\circ5'24''$ [6]. The ON-source and normalised OFF source θ^2 distribution (i.e. the distribution of the square of the angular difference between the reconstructed shower position and the source position) are shown in the Left panel of Fig. 1.

The differential energy spectra (Right panel in Fig. 1) was derived above the energy threshold of ~ 150 GeV using excess events obtained with loose cuts analysis applied only to high-quality 4-telescope observations. The spectrum is compatible with a power law distribution with a photon index $\Gamma = 3.44 \pm 0.27_{stat} \pm 0.2_{sys}$ and with an integral flux of $1.83 \pm 0.21_{stat} \pm 0.37_{syst} \times 10^{-12} \text{ cm}^{-2} \text{ s}^{-1}$ for $E > 200$ GeV ($\sim 0.6\%$ of the Crab flux). No evidence of curvature in the spectrum or spectral variability was found.

The H.E.S.S. night-wise light curve shown in 2 (upper panel) shows no evidence of variability ($\chi^2/\text{ndf} = 78.7/79$). No evidence of significant variability at any timescale has been found.

3. Multi-wavelength observations

HE Gamma-ray observations The LAT telescope [7] on the *Fermi* Gamma-ray Space Telescope detected the source at TS=68 (7.9σ) in 651 days (04 August 2008-17 May 2010). The energy spectrum is well described by a power law with spectral index of 1.76 ± 0.18 (see Fig. 3). The

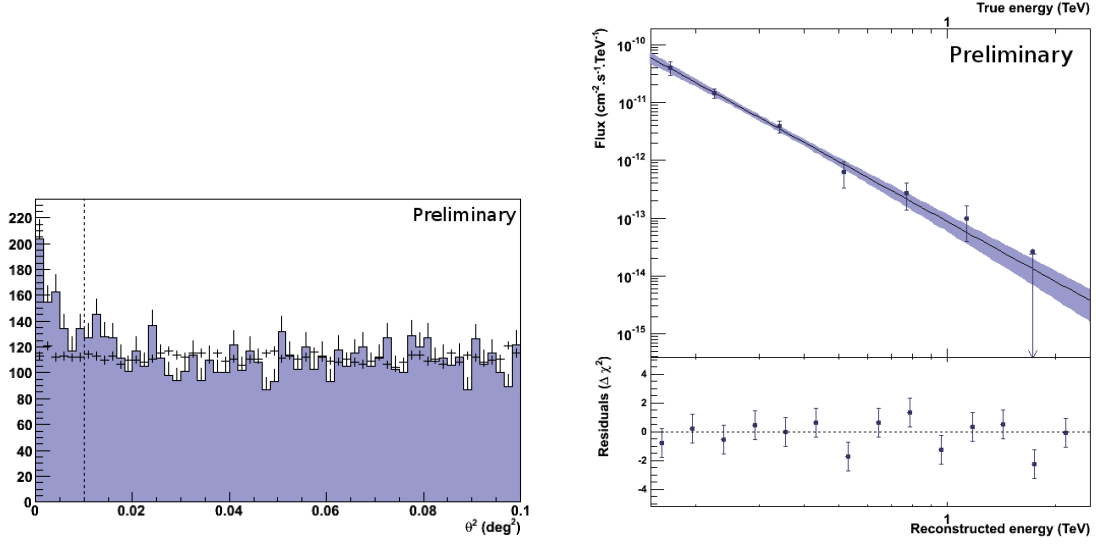


Figure 1: Left: Distribution of the θ^2 for the on-source events (shaded) and the normalized off-source events (crosses). The dashed vertical line indicates the cut on the θ^2 applied. Right: VHE differential energy spectra of 1ES 0414+009. The shaded band corresponds to the range of the power-law fit (68 % confidence level), taking into account statistical errors. Points are derived from the residuals in each energy bin reported in the bottom panel.

integrated flux between 100 MeV and 100 GeV is $(4.3 \pm 2.2) \times 10^{-9} \text{ cm}^{-2} \text{ s}^{-1}$. No evidence of variability was found in the 32.5 day bins light curve (2nd panel in Fig. 2).

X-ray observations X-ray Swift-XRT [9] performed 3 observations in October 2006 and 3 between January and February 2008 (3rd panel 2). The spectra between 0.3-10 keV have been determined assuming a power-law model with the galactic absorption fixed at $9.15 \times 10^{20} \text{ cm}^{-2}$ [8]. The spectral indexes for the threes observations result to be around 2.2–2.3. Modest spectral variations among the different epochs have been observed: on Feb. 2008 the flux increased by $\sim 15\%$, with a slight hardening of the spectrum ($\Delta\Gamma \approx 0.15$). The source was only marginally detected (2.5σ) in the 14-30 keV band by the *Swift* Burst Alert Telescope (BAT) [10] from 2004 to 2010. The corresponding fluxes are reported in Fig. 3.

UV observations: The UVOT instrument [11] on board Swift observed simultaneously to the X-ray telescope the following UV and optical bands: V, U, UVM2, B (4th panel in Fig. 2). As in the X-ray band, no significant variability was found in the UV band in October 2006, nor in January 2008 (see fourth panel in Fig. 2, where fluxes are reported with no extinction correction).

Optical observations: The ATOM telescope [12], located at the HESS site in Namibia, monitored the flux in the 4 different filters R, B, I and V. A slight decrease of the flux in 2008 was observed in the R-band (5th panel Fig. 2).

4. EBL constraints

With a redshift of 0.287 the reconstructed VHE spectrum of 1ES 0414+009 is expected to be strongly sensitive to the EBL density. Nevertheless, 1ES 0414+009 does not provide stricter upper

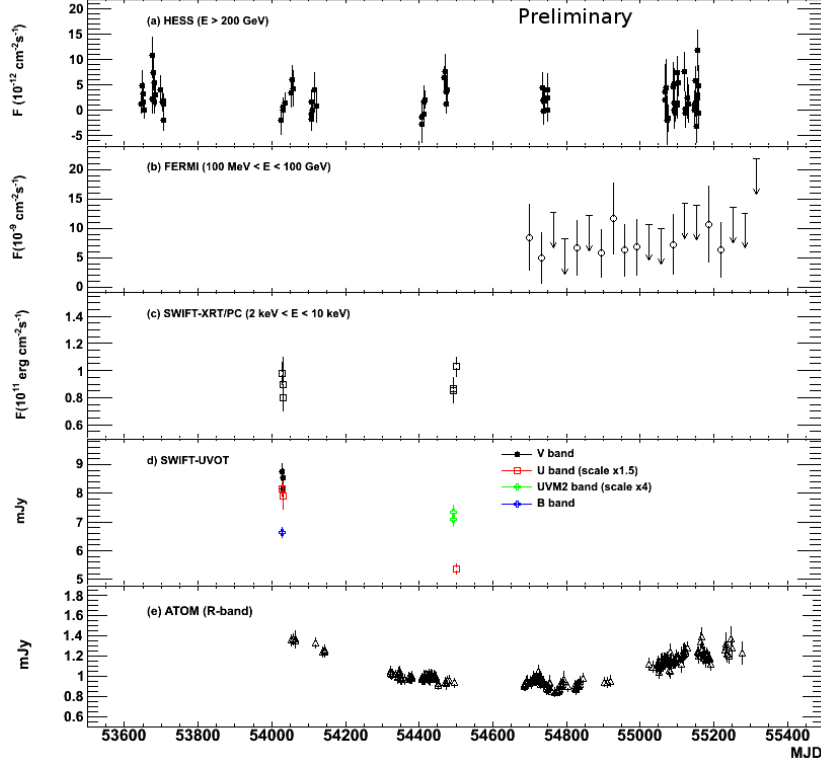


Figure 2: Light curve of the multi-wavelength observations of 1ES 0414+009 covering the period from 2005 to 2009. Night-wise light curve of 1ES 0414+009 by H.E.S.S. (a), SWIFT XRT (c), UVOT (d), and ATOM (e) observations. The *Fermi* light curve (b) has 32.5 day binning with 95% upper limits.

limits on the EBL level. It confirms the limits set by other HBL [13, 14, 15] and indicates a low EBL level around 1-3 mm [14] close to the lower limits from galaxy counts.

Assuming as EBL model one of the best current estimate by [16], both the *Fermi* and H.E.S.S. absorption-corrected spectra are harder than $\Gamma = 2$, indicating a high-energy peak above few TeV. The fit with a single power law of the FERMI-H.E.S.S. combined spectra has a spectral index of 1.84 ± 0.06 . Therefore, 1ES 0414+009 can be classified as a hard TeV spectra objects.

5. Broad-band SED

The peak in the synchrotron emission is around 0.1 keV, while the peak in the high energy emission is above few TeV. This finding is difficult to explain with a standard one-zone SSC scenario, because Klein-Nishina effects tend to steepen the VHE spectrum unless the electron cooling is dominated by Compton scattering in the deep Klein-Nishina regime [17]. The lack of hardening of the synchrotron spectrum at high X-ray energies (see BAT measurements) seems to disfavor the latter case. However, imposing the Thomson conditions for the two peaks requires either extreme parameters ($\delta > 200$ and $B < 0.002$ G) or a large emitting region ($R \sim 10^{17}$ cm vs typical size around $R \sim 10^{16}$ cm).

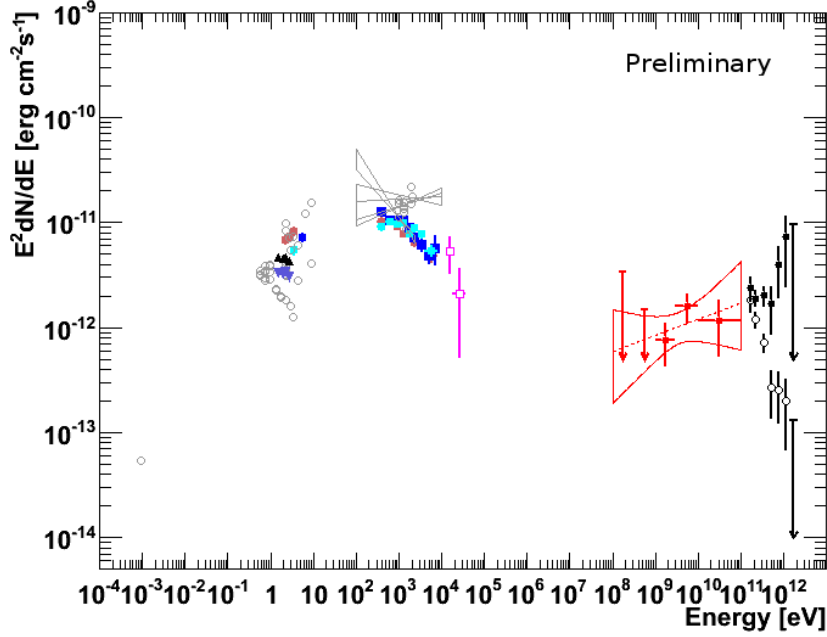


Figure 3: Average SED of 1ES 0414+009 with observations carried out between 2005 and 2009: HESS (black fill/open circles with/without EBL correction respectively); FERMI (red), SWIFT-BAT in 5 yrs (magenta), SWIFT XRT&UVOT (purple October 2006, blue January 2008 and cyan February 2008) and ATOM (triangles). Gray points archival data from [4].

6. Conclusion

The H.E.S.S. array of Cherenkov telescopes has detected a significant VHE γ -ray emission in the direction of 1ES 0414+009. With its average flux of $\sim 0.6\%$ Crab Nebula flux above $E > 200$ GeV, 1ES 0414+009 results to be one of the most faint extra-galactic sources detected in the TeV domain. This source is also detected with the *Fermi*-LAT instrument in the first 20 months of its operation between 2008 and 2010 and is also very faint also in the HE domain.

The VHE energy spectrum is consistent with the current limit of the EBL and confirms the low level of EBL around few μm given by the galaxy counts. The HE and VHE spectra (absorption corrected with an EBL model close to the lower limits) show a best-fit power law with an index harder than 2, indicating that 1ES 0414+009 can be classified among the hard-TeV BL Lac objects.

The overall SED of this source is averaged over five years and presents an IC peak energy above 1-2 TeV, which is difficult to be accounted for in the framework of a pure one-zone SSC model, unless using uncomfortable values for the main parameters. With the ten-fold sensitivity, the future Cherenkov observatory CTA (Cherenkov Telescope Array) will provide more accurate measurements of the energy spectrum of distant blazars, such as 1ES 0414+009 thus constraining the IC peak and helping to address the physics issues posed by the hard-TeV BL Lac objects.

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